

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 1-13 of the application as filed, as follows:

As further illustrated in Figure 3, transaction processor 35, which takes the form of software stored on a storage medium (such as magnetic or optical media, ~~or conveyed as a data stream over a network~~) and executing on a data processing system, provides for, among other things, assigning a life cycle ID to electronic documents or items. When an electronic transaction is received as transaction data 36, the transaction processor 35 uses the specification stored in the transaction specification database 32 to parse and retrieve the key values of the transaction. These key values are then used to search the life cycle index table 31 to see whether or not any of these values have already been indexed. If one or more matches are found, the assigned life cycle IDs for the matched rows in the table are retrieved and used to archive and log the current transaction. If no match is found, the system 35 assigns a unique life cycle ID for each of the key values and adds these keys into the Index table 31. These life cycle IDs are then used to archive and log the current transaction.

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 18-22 of the application as filed, as follows:

According to still another example embodiment of the invention, there are provided at least two retrieval mechanisms: key value retrieval and secondary retrieval. As illustrated in Figure 5, this retrieval is performed by a retrieval processor 50 that is, in one example embodiment, a computer program stored on a medium such as magnetic media, or optical media, ~~or a stream of instructions conveyed over a network.~~